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DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1957

M. I. SILVERTON,

O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

B

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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1957)

Chairman:

THE HON. E. DAPHNE COURTHOPE

Vice-Chairman:

MR. Q. LLOYD

MR. H. M. HORSLEY (Chairman of the Council)

MR. P. G. ARMITAGE

COLONEL E. A. CRANE

MR. D. W. CREW

MR. F. GEARY

MAJOR M. GRISELL

SIR ALAN MOORE, BT., M.B., D.P.H.

MR. A. NEATE

MR. W. H. SILK

MR. D. G. C. SPENCE

MR. E. WOOLLARD

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. SILVERTON, O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. T. DUNFORD, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Public Health Inspectors:

R. E. Briggs, D.P.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

G. J. Allen, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

F. B. Elliott, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Chief Clerk:

Miss M. E. Portnell

**Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk:*

Miss M. H. Hearnshaw

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

Miss W. R. Burt

C. W. Field

Rat Catcher:

R. Elliott

*County Staff employed locally

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

The statistics reveal that the health of the District compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales.

Despite economic sanctions in the form of punitive interest rates this Council has endeavoured to fulfil its function as a Sanitary authority. Only the more urgent sewerage schemes were considered and some progress was recorded; much remains to be done. The outstanding programme of works awaiting action is one of increasing urgency if the health and welfare of the people is to be a prime consideration.

The successful functioning of the Public Health Department is essentially dependent on team work, and in this connection I would like to express my thanks for the loyal support given by Mr. Dunford (Chief Public Health Inspector), the Public Health Inspectors, as well as the members of the Clerical Staff under the able direction of Miss Portnell (Chief Clerk).

This District is enjoying the benefit of its vigorous immunisation campaign against diphtheria, and I am happy to record that there have not been any cases of this dread disease during the past 12 years. The success of the Immunisation Campaign owes much to the careful work of the Immunisation Clerk (Miss Hearnshaw).

I am obliged to the Clerk of the Council and other Chief Officers for their co-operation at all times.

I am grateful to the Councillors, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for their stimulating interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. I. SILVERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex,

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

	1954	1955	1956	1957
Area of district in acres (estimated)	117,147	117,147	117,147	117,147
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year)	29,780	29,850	29,810	29,680
Rateable value	£230,397	£235,111 (31.12.55)	£342,953 (31.12.56)	£337,043 (31.12.57)
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	£910	£928	£1,355	£1,305
Number of rateable pre- mises at 1st April ..	11,893	12,004	11,938	12,096

The decrease in the Penny Rate between 1956 and 1957 was due, in the main, to the re-assessment of business premises.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

Battle Rural District				
<i>Live Births:</i>	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate.. ..	179	161	340	
Illegitimate	9	6	15	
	188	167	355	
<i>Stillbirths:</i>				
Legitimate.. ..	1	3	4	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	1	3	4	

	Battle R.D.	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 home population ..	11.96	16.1
Corrected birth rate..	14.11	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) ..	11.26	22.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 home population ..	0.13	0.37

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

							<i>Battle R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Death rate per 1,000 of resident population (Crude)							16.84	11.5
*Corrected death rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	11,904
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.45	16.5
Deaths of infants under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	16,720
Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.26	23.1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	0.47

*The Death Rate is "Corrected" in order to be comparable with that for England and Wales, the comparability factor being 0.70.

SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, 1949-1957

Year	Esti- mated popula- tion	Total live births			Corr- ected Birth rate	Birth rate Eng. & W.	Total deaths			Corr- ected death rate	Death rate Eng. & W.	Natu- ral de- crease
		M	F	Total			M	F	Total			
1949	30,130	226	206	432	14.3	16.7	220	214	434	10.5	11.7	- 2
1950	29,910	208	203	411	15.8	15.8	213	215	428	10.2	11.6	- 17
1951	29,960	215	176	391	15.0	15.5	220	215	435	10.4	12.5	- 44
1952	29,770	186	184	370	14.2	15.3	184	210	394	9.5	11.3	- 24
1953	29,700	189	190	379	14.6	15.5	203	225	428	10.3	11.4	- 49
1954	29,780	202	177	379	15.0	15.2	221	223	444	10.4	11.3	- 65
1955	29,850	204	159	363	14.3	15.0	221	210	431	9.8	11.7	- 68
1956	29,810	180	193	373	14.7	15.6	214	225	439	10.3	11.7	- 66
1957	29,680	188	167	355	14.1	16.1	258	232	490	11.7	11.5	-135

The increased proportion of aged retired people in the population of this District will account for the decreased birth rate as compared with England and Wales.

The Corrected Death Rate pays due regard to the aged population and over the years compares favourably with England and Wales.

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	2	5
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	2	1	3
Measles	0	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasms	49	39	88
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	43	77
Coronary disease, angina	39	23	62
Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9
Other heart disease	54	59	113
Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
Influenza	3	5	8
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Bronchitis	9	3	12
Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	1	4
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5
Congenital malformations	1	3	4
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	19	29	48
Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
All other accidents	5	2	7
Suicide	2	1	3
	258	232	490

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES AND
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

	Battle R.D.		England and Wales	
	No. of Deaths	Per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Per 1,000 pop.
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	5	0.16	4,249	0.09
Tuberculosis (all forms)	7	0.23	4,783	0.11
Influenza	8	0.26	6,715	0.15
Pneumonia	10	0.33	*23,516	0.52
Poliomyelitis	—	—	225	0.01
Coronary and arteriosclerotic heart disease	62	2.08	76,321	1.70
Cancer of the lung and bronchus	11	0.37	19,120	0.43
Motor vehicle accidents	6	0.20	4,897	0.11

*including Pneumonia of the newborn

It will be observed that the number of deaths from tuberculosis in 1957 in England and Wales was 4,783. In 1930 deaths from this cause were 34,000 and in 1940, 23,000; a tribute to better housing, nutrition, health education and the advent of new drugs.

The preventive measure of Mass Miniature Radiography has been a major factor in eliminating many undisclosed reservoirs of infection.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

	1954	1955	1956	1957
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system ..	184 (41.4%)	174 (40.3%)	184 (41.9%)	194 (39.5%)
*(Coronary disease) ..	54 (12.1%)	59 (13.6%)	55 (12.5%)	62 (12.6%)
(ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	67 (15.9%)	78 (18.1%)	62 (14.1%)	88 (17.9%)
(Cancer of lung and bronchus)	15 (3.3%)	11 (2.5%)	10 (2.2%)	11 (2.2%)
(iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	62 (13.9%)	60 (13.9%)	64 (14.5%)	77 (15.7%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis)..	38 (8.5%)	38 (8.8%)	36 (8.2%)	26 (5.3%)

**Coronary disease*—Research has not revealed a definite cause but it would appear that excess weight, mental stress and lack of exercise accentuated by the advent of the motor car, particularly related to the professional and business executive classes, are important contributory factors.

DEATHS—65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

	Bath R.D.			London *		
	1955	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957
Total deaths ..	431	439	490	37,877	38,317	37,078
Number of deaths 65 years and over ..	323	343	369	25,615	26,239	24,717
Percentage of total deaths	74.9	78.1	75.3	67.6	68.4	66.9

* England and Wales not available

LUNG CANCER, BRONCHITIS AND SMOKING

Lung Cancer Deaths in England and Wales

1930	1,489
1940	5,000
1957	19,127

In 1957, over 100,000 million cigarettes were sold in the United Kingdom, the comparable figure for 1939 was 74,000 million.

These figures incriminate cigarette smoking as a likely cause of lung cancer and indicate that cigarette smoking is on the increase, despite all the gloomy prognostications and it is comparatively rare for the adult addict to give it up. We must therefore concentrate on the children and take all measures to ensure that they do not form the habit. In this connection it is encouraging to note that the Head Master of Rye Grammar School asked for 450 copies of my article on this condition which appeared in my Annual Report for 1956.

Lung cancer is not the only pathological condition which is triggered by smoking. The number of deaths from bronchitis is also rising, apart from the ill-health and disablement engendered by this condition.

In 1930 deaths from bronchitis were 19,125.

In 1957 deaths from bronchitis were 26,930.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases			Non-Pulmonary Cases			Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. No. on Register at 1st January, 1957 ..	51	47	98	8	11	19	59	58	117
2. Cases previously removed and re-notified in 1957 ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
3. Primary notifications received in 1957 ..	12	7	19	3	1	4	15	8	23
4. Cases moved into area as transfers ..	2	9	11	—	—	—	2	9	11
Totals	67	63	130	11	12	23	78	75	153
5. Cases removed from Register in 1957 ..	8	3	11	3	2	5	11	5	16
6. Number on Register at 31st December, 1957	59	60	119	8	10	18	67	70	137

	1956 Total Cases (all forms)			1957 Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. Number on Register at 1st Jan.	59	55	114	59	58	117
2. Cases previously removed and re-notified during year ..	—	—	—	2	—	2
3. Primary notifications received during year	4	7	11	15	8	23
4. Cases moved into area as transfers	3	11	14	2	9	11
Totals	66	73	139	78	75	153
5. Cases removed from Register during year	7	15	22	11	5	16
6. Number on Register at 31st Dec.	59	58	117	67	70	137

Pulmonary tuberculosis

It is disquieting to note the increase in primary notifications as compared with last year. However, investigation did not reveal any particular significance in this increase and may have been due to better diagnostic facilities.

Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis

The non-pulmonary cases occurred in a man *aet* 74 years (prostate and testicle); a woman *aet* 34 years (peritonitis); and a boy *aet* 14 years (cervical glands).

In the latter two cases the milk supplies were investigated but the source of infection was not discovered although the female patient had been drinking raw T.T. milk from the same herd for many years. The herd was found to be satisfactory when investigated.

ANALYSIS OF REMOVALS IN 1957

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Left District	4	—	—	1	4	1	5
Cured	2	—	2	1	4	1	5
Died*	3	2	1	1	4	3	7
Diagnosed not tb	—	1	1	—	1	1	2
Totals	9	3	4	3	13	6	19

*One case of pulmonary tuberculosis who died was resident in Darvell Hall Hospital and not on the Register. The two cases who died of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were not on the Register and were notified after death.

Tabulated lists (in age groups) of New Cases notified in this District and all Deaths during the current year :

Age	NEW CASES (PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS)				ALL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
16—25	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
36—45	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
46—60	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 60	4	2	1	—	3	—	1	1
Totals	12	7	3	1	3	2	1	1

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1952-1957
1st JANUARY-31st DECEMBER

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	8	7	2	2	1	6
Measles	190	1,051	5	243	105	184
Scarlet fever	87	29	14	8	7	10
Meningococcal infection	2	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping cough	72	214	129	106	89	80
Acute pneumonia	34	29	23	32	20	27
Erysipelas	7	3	10	5	7	4
Puerperal pyrexia	3	—	1	4	2	4
Dysentery	1	—	21	—	14	1
Food poisoning	—	2	1	3	3	2
Acute encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	1

Poliomyelitis

There were five proven cases of poliomyelitis due to Type I Virus admitted to hospital during the year.

Two of these cases were sisters of school age (one paralytic and one non-paralytic) in a family who were on holiday in Camber. Investigation revealed that these children had been in contact with a proven case in Maidstone about two weeks before coming on holiday. The Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was immediately informed and given all relevant details.

Two cases in brothers of pre-school age (one paralytic and one non-paralytic) occurred in a family resident in Westfield. Both boys made full recoveries although one had to attend the Orthopaedic Department as an outpatient for some time.

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in a housewife who made a complete recovery.

There was also one case of paralytic poliomyelitis in a girl of school age which was notified during the convalescent stage having been nursed at home, and is therefore not included in the five hospital cases reviewed above.

There was no evidence of spread nor was it found possible to trace the source of infection in the four latter cases.

Measles

It will be observed that measles followed the biennial trend of a lesser incidence in 1956 and a higher incidence in 1957, although there is not the wide variation noted in past years.

There were no complications of note and no cases were admitted to hospital.

Whooping Cough

The incidence is gradually decreasing and it is hoped that this is due to the immunisation campaign, see table on page 20.

Scarlet Fever

Mild in character and of no special significance, the usual investigations were made in each case regarding the possibility of food handlers being involved, and where indicated, alternative work was advised and accepted.

Meningococcal infection

One case of meningococcal infection in a female adult was admitted to St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings, and made an uneventful recovery.

Mumps

One London hop-picker was admitted to hospital as a case of mumps during the picking season. There were no complications.

One male adult residing in this District was admitted to hospital as a complicated case. He eventually made a full recovery.

Dysentery*

One case of Sonne dysentery was notified and admitted to hospital. Sampling of the other members of the family revealed that a grandson of school age was excreting this organism.

Both these cases were kept under observation and sampled until three consecutive negative specimens were obtained.

Food Poisoning*

(a) One boy, *aet* 17 years, was admitted to hospital as an abdominal emergency but was eventually transferred to the Isolation Hospital as he was found to be suffering from an acute attack of salmonella typhi-murium infection.

After prolonged treatment with aureomycin and achromycin he was discharged home but still in a carrier state. Subsequently three negative samples were obtained.

No other members of the family were found to be excreting this organism.

Investigation did not reveal the source of infection but the water supply was found to be a polluted well. Subsequently a scheme was arranged whereby this cottage and several others were to be put on the main water supply.

(b) One case in a boy *aet* 4 years was notified. Sampling of all members of the family revealed that five out of seven members were excreting salmonella typhi-murium.

It was not possible to trace the source of infection and subsequently three consecutive negative samples were obtained from each member of the family.

*The patients who suffered from dysentery or food poisoning, and their immediate contacts, were warned regarding the necessary hygienic measures,

Battle Hospital

An outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting at Battle Hospital, which caters for old people, was investigated at the request of the doctor in charge.

Investigations were negative and the condition resolved in a short time. This appeared to have been an outbreak of winter vomiting disease.

The washer-up was found to be excreting cysts of *Giardia Lamblia* and her doctor was notified.

V.P. School

The Head Teacher of a small village Primary school notified me of a high incidence of diarrhoea on two days.

No pathological organisms were discovered on sampling the teaching and cooking staff and pupils.

The school meal did not appear to be the vehicle of infection and the source was not found. However, a letter was sent to the Principal School Medical Officer, advising him of the poor equipment and layout of the cooking centre.

Influenza Virus A (Asian)

The first wave of epidemic influenza in late 1957 caused over 3,000 deaths in Great Britain and had a markedly detrimental effect on industrial output. This epidemic is estimated to have cost the National Insurance Fund £10,000,000.

In this district I was able to isolate this same strain by taking bloods from the odd acute case.

All doctors in this Rural District were immediately notified of the possibility of spread. Their co-operation had already been enlisted in the diagnosis of this condition.

Six cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, of whom three died of influenzal pneumonia, two adults and one girl *aet* 12 years.

Absenteeism in schools rose to 80%.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	—	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	10
Whooping cough ..	3	8	14	47	5	2	—	1	—	80
Acute poliomyelitis	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	6
Measles ..	1	20	32	101	22	1	5	1	1	184
Acute pneumonia ..	1	—	1	2	3	1	2	13	4	27
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4
Food poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Puerperal pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningococcal infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	6	30	50	160	31	6	14	18	5	320

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	10
Whooping cough	1	6	27	5	7	14	7	1	5	2	1	4	80
Acute poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	6
Measles ..	2	5	5	5	11	56	67	31	2	—	—	—	184
Acute pneumonia	4	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	10	—	5	27
Erysipelas ..	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Food poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal pyrexia ..	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal infection ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	7	21	39	12	22	71	75	36	10	16	1	10	320

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PARISHES

	Measles	Whooping cough	Scarlet fever	Acute pneumonia	Erysipelas	Acute poliomyelitis	Food poisoning	Puerperal pyrexia	Dysentery	Meningococcal infection	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Ashburnham	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Battle	92	5	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Beckley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bodiam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brede	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brightling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burwash	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camber	2	3	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Catsfield	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst	1	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Guldeford	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Etchingham	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ewhurst	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Fairlight	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling	25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hurst Green	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Icklesham	16	1	—	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Iden	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pett	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Playden	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salehurst	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sedlescombe	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst	3	9	—	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Udimore	—	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westfield	—	2	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Whatlington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	184	80	10	27	4	6	2	4	1	1	1

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION IN CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

	Usual Incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	Period of exclusion	
			Patients	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT	1-7	1-2	Exclude from school for 7 days after discharge from hospital or home isolation. Not allowed back if discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat or septic spots be present.	Adult contacts engaged in school meals service excluded until Medical Officer of Health allows return to work. Other contacts, if healthy, need not be excluded.
DIPHTHERIA	2-7	—	Until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection.	At least 7 days. Return to school should not be permitted until bacteriological examination has proved negative.
MEASLES	7-14	3-4	10 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well.	Children under 5 years of age who have not had the disease should be excluded for 14 days from the date of the appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded.
GERMAN MEASLES	5-21	0-2	7 days from the appearance of the rash.	None.
WHOOPING COUGH	6-18	—	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough.	Children under 7 years who have not had the disease should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house.
MUMPS	12-28	—	7 days from the subsidence of the swelling.	None.
CHICKEN POX	11-21	0-2	14 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS—*continued*

	Usual Incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	Period of exclusion	
			Patients	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
INFLUENZA AND THE COMMON COLD	1-2	—	Exclude immediately for 7 days or until recovery is complete.	None.

RINGWORM OF THE BODY (including ATHLETE'S FOOT) If the infected area can be kept covered the patient need not be excluded. He should not, however, take part in swimming—nor in the case of ringworm of the feet—in gymnastic classes or barefoot dancing.

IMMUNISATION SERVICE

A review of the past nine years of the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign reveals that the percentage of children immunised in the 1 to 5 age groups shows a gradual but increasingly satisfactory rise, as per the accompanying table.

Year						Percentage
1949	..	..	..	..	..	59.22
1950	..	..	..	..	..	65.14
1951	..	..	..	..	..	65.79
1952	..	..	..	..	..	65.73
1953	..	..	..	..	..	74.04
1954	..	..	..	..	..	79.07
1955	..	..	..	..	..	78.36
1956	..	..	..	..	..	79.10
1957	..	..	..	..	..	80.64

This is due to the undiminished vigour with which this campaign has been pursued. The Ministry of Health have issued pamphlets urging parents to accept the benefit of this service, and here is an extract which exemplifies the necessity for obtaining protection at all ages.

“Don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Don't think, because you don't know of a child catching diphtheria, that there is no need to give your baby protection from it. If you had seen a baby with diphtheria you wouldn't hesitate. Those who have can tell you how horrible it is and how distressing are the effects of diphtheria on little children who, if they escape death, may suffer a serious and prolonged illness. If mothers neglect to have their babies immunised, an epidemic could start up any day—and *your* baby might be unprotected. Wise parents know that only by immunisation can diphtheria be held in check.”

The table given below is self-explanatory with regard to the benefits which have been obtained in England and Wales.

<i>Year</i>				<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Corrected Notifications</i>
1948	..	..	..	156	3,575
1949	..	..	..	84	1,890
1950	..	..	..	49	962
1951	..	..	..	33	664
1952	..	..	..	32	376
1953	..	..	..	23	266
1954	..	..	..	9	173
1955	..	..	..	13	155
1956	..	..	..	8	53
1957	..	..	..	6	39

178 clinics were held during 1957 (39 sessions).

Number of children who received injections in 1957:

Primary Immunisation:

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Against						
Diphtheria	1	1	4	24	10	40
Diphtheria and whooping cough	19	8	4	1	—	32
Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus ..	206	33	18	5	2	264
	226	42	26	30	12	336

Reinforcing injections:

Against						
Diphtheria	—	—	65	271	522	858
Diphtheria and whooping cough	—	—	—	11	1	12
Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus ..	—	—	4	12	5	21
	—	—	69	294	528	891

Totals—Under 5 294

5-14 (inc.) 42

Reinforcing 891

Total number of children under 15 years of age, resident in the area, who had been immunised by 31st December, 1957:

Under 5 years 1,354

5-14 (inc.) 4,261

5,615

Comparative figures for the past three years:

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>
Number immunised under 5 years	1,329	1,314	1,354
Child population (under 5) ..	1,696	1,661	1,679
Percentage of child population (under 5)	78.36%	79.10%	80.64%
Number immunised (5-15, inc.)	4,265	4,336	4,261
Child population (5-14)	4,648	4,655	4,590
Percentage of child population (5-14)	91.75%	93.14%	92.83%

(population figures are estimated—the Registrar General is unable to supply them)

It is generally accepted that immunisations given more than five years previously confer a diminished immunity. The state of immunity of a child population at any given time is therefore more realistically given as the numbers immunised (primary or booster) within the previous five years. This figure is known as the Immunity Index.

Under

	I yr.	I-4	5-14	Total
Immunity Index expressed (1955)	39.54%	82.88%	62.45%	66.70%
as a percentage of the (1956)	41.17%	83.43%	67.45%	70.51%
child population (1957)	40.54%	85.60%	70.54%	73.24%

Diphtheria Immunisation percentages for Schools.

School	No. on Register	No. Immunised	Percentage
Ashburnham C.P.	23	23	100.00
Battle V.P.	230	222	96.52
Battle Secondary Modern (Claverham) ..	399	386	96.74
Beckley V.P.	46	44	95.65
Bodiam V.P.	50	49	98.00
Brede C.P.	52	49	94.23
Burwash V.P.	110	100	90.90
St. Philip's, Burwash Common	59	56	94.91
Catsfield V.P.	58	56	96.55
Crowhurst V.P.	45	42	93.33
Dallington V.P.	43	40	93.02
Etchingham V.P.	45	43	95.55
Ewhurst V.P.	14	14	100.00
Guestling V.P.	109	102	93.57
Hurst Green V.P.	60	58	96.66
Icklesham V.P.	67	65	97.01
Mountfield and Whatlington V.P.	110	105	95.45
Netherfield V.P.	101	95	94.05
Northiam V.P.	122	120	98.36
Peasmarsh V.P.	64	60	93.75
Playden V.P.	36	35	97.22
Robertsbridge Secondary Modern	243	230	94.65
Salehurst V.P.	156	149	95.51
Sedlescombe V.P.	77	75	97.40
Staplecross Methodist Primary	54	51	94.44
Stonegate V.P.	42	42	100.00
Ticehurst V.P.	170	169	99.41
Udimore C.P.	44	41	93.18
Westfield C.P.	112	109	97.32
Winchelsea V.P.	66	66	100.00
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	2,807	2,696	96.04
	1,783	1,565	87.77

Comparative Percentages for the past three years:

	1955	1956	1957
Attending County Council Schools	95.16%	96.43%	96.04%
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	86.74%	88.00%	87.77%

INCIDENCE OF WHOOPING COUGH IN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IMMUNISED

	1954			1955			1956			1957		
	Cases	Notified cases immunised	Immunisations performed	Cases	Notified cases immunised	Immunisations performed	Cases	Notified cases immunised	Immunisations performed	Cases	Notified cases immunised	Immunisations performed
Under 1 year	5	—	143	4	1	206	5	2	210	3	—	225
1- 2	24	1	91	18	6	107	14	8	81	8	4	63
3- 4	35	—	8	29	2		15	2		14	10	
5- 9	58	1	9	44	2	13	48	3	5	47	5	6
10-14	1	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	5	1	2
Totals	123	2	251	99	11	326	85	15	296	77	20	296

VACCINATION

The following persons were vaccinated in 1957:

	<i>Under</i>				<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>		
Primary vaccination ..	255	7	12	21	13	308
Re-vaccination ..	—	—	5	39	116	160
Travel abroad accounted for 8 primary vaccinations and 105 re-vaccinations.						
Number of babies born in 1957 ..	..	..	..	..	..	355
Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1957 ..	..	..	..	..	..	255
Percentage vaccinated in 1957 ..	..	..	..	..	..	71.83 %

Comparison with previous years:

	1955	1956	1957
Total primary vaccinations ..	269	291	308
Total re-vaccinations ..	137	163	160
Percentage of babies under 1 year vaccinated ..	64.46	65.41	71.83%

A review of the vaccination figures obtained since 1949 reveals a gradual but satisfactory increase in the percentages of babies protected. The necessity for achieving protection in this age group is of paramount importance,

						<i>Percentage of babies under 1 year vaccinated</i>
1949	..	..	..	..	..	25.46
1950	..	..	..	..	..	61.80
1951	..	..	..	..	..	62.66
1952	..	..	..	..	..	58.91
1953	..	..	..	..	..	65.43
1954	..	..	..	..	..	65.96
1955	..	..	..	..	..	64.46
1956	..	..	..	..	..	65.41
1957	..	..	..	..	..	71.83

The speed of air travel makes the likelihood of the introduction of smallpox an ever-present possibility. Parents are exhorted to make use of vaccination during the early months of their children's lives in order that they may achieve full protection as early as possible with the minimum of inconvenience.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Name and address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
BECKLEY: Parish Hall	First Tuesday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
BODIAM: Parish Room	Second Thursday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
BREDE and UDIMORE: The Hall, Broad Oak	Second Wednesday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
BURWASH: Congregational Hall ..	Fourth Thursday in month.
ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
FLIMWELL: Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday in month.
HURST GREEN: Village Hall ..	Second Tuesday in month.
ICKLESHAM: Village Hall ..	Second Friday in month.
NORTHIAM: Women's Institute Hall ..	Third Tuesday in month.
PEASMARSH: Memorial Hall ..	First Friday in month.
ROBERTSBRIDGE: The Institute, Station Road ..	First and Third Tuesdays in month.
SEDLSCOMBE: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month.
TICEHURST: Institute Hall ..	First Wednesday in month.
WESTFIELD: Church Hall ..	Third Tuesday in month.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE
AEGIS OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**(i) Ambulance Service*

		1955		1956		1957	
		Cases	Mileage	Cases	Mileage	Cases	Mileage
Illness ..	..	577	16,432	533	14,972	752	} 26,419
Accidents ..	..	112	2,808	169	3,048	193	

A tremendous increase in mileage when compared with previous years; almost 9,000 miles alone is due to the conveyance of a patient three times a week for treatment at hospital. The circumstances have been investigated and there is apparently no other method of approach, it does, however, illustrate the impact of the odd case.

Due to a different method of accounting it is not possible to give the mileage for accident cases as in previous years.

The Battle Branch of St. John Ambulance Brigade is staffed by three full-time members with two ambulances in premises provided by the East Sussex County Council. They give a first-class service.

(ii) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under School Age*

(iii) *Contraceptive Advice*

Subject to the limitation that advice is only given where pregnancy or childbirth is liable to be injurious to the health of the mother, arrangements are made for contraceptive advice to be given to married women at a clinic conducted by Hastings Corporation.

(iv) *District Nurses (Midwives) and Health Visitors*

(v) *Home Help Service*

(vi) *Hospital Car Service*

The Hospital Car Service in this county is provided by the joint organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Area Transport Office for this district is at 8 Endwell Road, Bexhill-on-Sea (Telephone Bexhill 152).

(vii) *Infant Welfare Centres*

See list of Centres on page 21.

**(viii) Immunisation and Vaccination Service*

Please refer to pages 17 and 20.

(ix) *Poliomyelitis Vaccination Service.*

(x) *B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children from 13 years.*

- (xi) *Mental Health Service*
- (xii) *Registration of Nursing Homes*
There are three efficiently-conducted registered Nursing Homes in this District.
- (xiii) *School Dental Service*
- (xiv) *School Medical Service (*Routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils)*

*Delegated duties to the District Medical Officer of Health, who also acts as School Medical Officer.

(b) HOSPITALS

The following are the main hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents in the Battle Rural District:

Darvell Hall Hospital, Robertsbridge.

Battle Hospital, Battle.

Memorial Hospital, Rye Foreign.

Isolation Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings (including V.D. Clinic).

Mount Pleasant Isolation Hospital, Hastings.

St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings.

Fernbank Maternity Nursing Home, Hastings.

Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne.

Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne.

Gildredge Isolation Hospital, Eastbourne.

Bexhill Hospital, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Hellingly Hospital, Hellingly.

Pembury Hospital, Pembury.

Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Homoepathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.

Hill House, Rye Foreign.

Administered by the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through their respective Hospital Management Committees.

(c) PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service is a free national laboratory service designed to assist all those concerned in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. The benefits are not limited by health authority, hospital region or other administrative boundary. These facilities are available to all doctors, both for the submission of specimens and for consultation.

Gamma globulin, prepared from pooled plasma from normal healthy adults by the Lister Institute for the Ministry of Health, is distributed to doctors in England and Wales through laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Requests for supplies should be made to the director of the nearest constituent or associated

laboratory of the Service. So far as supplies allow, it is issued for the protection of susceptible contacts of measles and rubella as shown below:

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Available for</i>	<i>Usual Dosage Prevention</i>
Measles	(i) Control of hospital and institutional outbreaks.	3 years and over— 750 mg.
	(ii) Persons suffering from intercurrent illness or living in a poor environment for whom an attack of measles would be dangerous.	1-2 years—500 mg. Under 1 year— 250 mg.
	(iii) Children under 3 years of age.	<i>Attenuation</i> 250 mg.
Rubella	Women exposed to infection in the first four months of pregnancy	3 x 250 mg. intra-muscularly (10-ml. syringe).

Protection is immediate providing no rash has appeared, and lasts 2-3 weeks, no side effects. Optimum prevention is up to first week after exposure.

The address of the nearest laboratory is The Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (Telephone, Brighton 23506, Director—Doctor J. E. Jameson).

(d) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(i) *Section 47: Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention*

Fortunately, I have been able to avoid using this Section.

The administrator, sitting in a remote office, whose primary concern is "tidiness" is extremely loathe to accept any strictures on the use of these powers. I feel that, in the main, the implementation of this Act is a confession of failure on the part of those social organisations, both statutory and voluntary, who should have been able to avoid this ultimate gross interference with the liberty of the subject.

There are too many people lacking in patience and humility who are perpetually prodding for "something to be done" by "somebody else"; whereas if they would but use half the energy thus expended in doing something themselves for the unfortunate target of their interest, many expensive beds in hospitals and homes for the aged would be saved, apart from the resultant happiness of the aged persons concerned, in being able to remain in their own homes.

Close and careful supervision coupled with an element of masterly inactivity will usually provide the right solution.

(ii) *Section 50: Burial or Cremation of the Dead.*

Action was necessary in two cases during the year.

(e) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE.

This voluntary service is much appreciated.

(f) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN
Liaison has been maintained with mutual benefit.

FOOD

The Public Health Inspectors made 133 inspections of food premises during the year in addition to those made for the purposes of meat inspection at slaughterhouses.

There are 410 food premises in the Rural District, made up as follows:—

Retail shops

Grocers or General Stores	..	..	..	..	..	129
Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	5
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	29
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	5
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sweets	..	..	..	..	..	18
<i>Bakeries</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4
<i>Public Houses</i>	..	..	..	..	..	78
<i>Hotels and Cafes</i>	..	..	..	..	..	71
<i>Schools</i>						
(a) Private	..	..	..	..	..	14
(b) East Sussex County Council	..	..	..	..	..	30
(c) E.S.C.C. Boarding	..	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Hospitals</i>	..	..	..	..	..	8
<i>Nursing Homes</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4
<i>Home for Aged</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Cooking Depot (School Meals)</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Canteens (Industrial, etc.)</i>	..	..	..	..	..	6

Registered Food Premises

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS
ACT, 1955

Ice Cream

No. of premises on Register at end of 1956	..	..	..	130
No. of premises registered during 1957	..	..	..	5

Sausages

No. of premises on Register at end of 1956	..	..	..	22
No. of premises registered during 1957	..	..	..	Nil

Preserves (Jams, etc.)

No. of premises on Register at end of 1956	..	..	..	1
No. of premises registered during 1957	..	..	..	Nil

Ice Cream

Registered food premises retailing ice cream, mainly sell the wrapped product. None is manufactured within the District.

Sausage Makers

Sausage making is mainly confined to butchers' shops. One small, suitably equipped and well conducted factory makes continental type sausages which are sold outside the rural district.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

There were 17 inspections of registered food premises during the year.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is either taken away from the premises for disposal at the Council's refuse tips or rendered unsaleable by staining so that it may be salvaged for soap-making or other industrial processes. Food condemned in shops was mainly in tins and comprised fruit, vegetables, meat and milk. Retailers have co-operated well in submitting doubtful foods for examination by the public health inspectors.

Certificates are issued in respect of all food condemned and traders are enabled to claim refunds from wholesalers.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

133 inspections of food premises were made during the year and the overall result was encouraging, but much remains to be done. The lack of main services in many parishes is a great handicap in achieving full compliance with the Regulations.

It is fair to say that there is an increasing awareness on the part of traders of the need to protect food on display and in stock prior to sale. Unfortunately, an indiscriminating section of the public still patronise the shopkeepers whose methods, premises and outlook are suspect.

Extensive improvements have been carried out in the principal bakery in the district and further major alterations are envisaged.

The small general store sometimes presents a special problem as it is often cramped but is expected to stock something of everything. The clean handling of food is not easy to achieve when the same person handles such foods as butter and cheese, followed by paraffin, dirty vegetables and ice cream, even though the premises are provided with washing facilities and hot water.

Infestations of food premises by rats and mice have decreased greatly during the past five years.

Food hygiene presents a vast field for future health education, and it is hoped that when the necessary amenities of safe water and sewage disposal are provided generally throughout the District the Public Health Inspectors will be enabled to devote more effort to this worthwhile facet of public health work.

In the meantime, they spend more than half their time in dealing with the basic problems engendered by polluted and inadequate water supplies in addition to the effects of rudimentary and primitive drainage systems.

MILK PRODUCTION

The following is an estimate of the designated and non-designated farms in this Rural District:

	1956		1957	
	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Producing Tuberculin tested milk	239	67.51	281	81.21
Producing non-designated milk	115	32.49	65	18.79

It is satisfactory to note that the production of Tuberculin Tested milk has continued to increase, in addition, most of the milk is pasteurised.

There is no doubt that this is an important factor in the conservation of health within this District, there having been no deaths attributable to bovine tuberculosis.

Brucellosis

Evidence is accumulating which shows that this infection, conveyed in the main by drinking raw milk, may be the cause of much ill-health and general malaise.

Unfortunately, a sure diagnostic test is not available and the clinical signs so simulate other conditions that it is seldom considered as a likely diagnosis. However, there has been one clinical case in this District during the year; a schoolboy not normally resident in the area, who was being treated for intermittent bouts of pyrexia. Examination of his blood revealed significant agglutinations to *Brucella abortus* and *melitensis*.

I communicated with the Medical Officer of Health of the area concerned, but was unable to locate a focus of infection in that area.

When dealing with pyrexias of unknown origin, brucella is a condition which should be borne in mind, and to quote an American authority "Physicians should be more brucellosis-minded."

The short answer to protection against this condition and other infections which may be conveyed by drinking raw milk is pasteurisation, whether the milk emanates from a Tuberculin Tested herd or not. Raw milk is always a potential danger.

Milk Sampling

SAMPLES OF PASTEURISED MILK SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION:

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Number of samples conforming to Phosphatase test	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Number of samples conforming to Methylene Blue test	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

In view of complaints regarding the keeping quality of a raw Tuberculin Tested milk emanating from Kent, a sample was taken which failed the Methylene Blue test. Communication with the Health Department concerned revealed that this was considered to be due to an unsatisfactory roundsman and that this milk supply was in process of being taken over by a reputable firm.

SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

Number of samples taken	17
Number negative for Tubercle Bacilli	17
Number positive for Brucella Abortus (Ring Test)	5

At the close of the previous year a bulk sample from a Tuberculin Tested herd revealed the presence of Brucella Abortus. Quarter sampling of 19 cows showed one positive which the owner removed from the herd.

DETAILS OF REGISTRATIONS AND LICENCES GRANTED DURING 1957:

(1) Registrations:

(a) Milk distributors	12
(b) Dairy premises (other than dairy farms)	2
(c) Shops selling milk	9

(2) Licences granted under:

(a) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953:*

(i) Dealers	24
(ii) Supplementary	3

(b) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954:*

(i) Dealers	19
(ii) Supplementary	3

WATER SUPPLY

There are five Statutory Water Undertakings within the District:

<i>Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes</i>
Battle Rural District Council.	Battle, part of Brightling, part of Crowhurst, Ewhurst, Mountfield, Iden, Playden, Rye Foreign and part of Peasmarsh, Sedlescombe, Whatlington.
Hastings Corporation	Parts of Westfield, Guestling, Pett and Fairlight; Icklesham including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour; Camber and part of Ore; Brede and Udimore.
Heathfield and District Water Co.	Burwash, Brightling, Dallington, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Salehurst, Bodiam and Ticehurst.
Mid-Kent Water Company	Northiam.
Bexhill Corporation	Ashburnham, Catsfield and part of Crowhurst.

Rye Borough Corporation supplies water to Rye Foreign, Iden and Playden by arrangement with the Statutory Undertakers concerned

Personnel of the Water Engineer's Department are blood-tested on appointment and reviewed when indicated in order to eliminate the possibility of a carrier state with consequent pollution of the water supply. This is arranged with the helpful co-operation of the Pathologist of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings

All new employees of the Heathfield and District Water Company are similarly blood-tested,

Other Piped Supplies

TOOT ROCK, PETT LEVEL

This privately-owned supply serves 54 houses in the Pett Level area only.

Regular surveillance is necessary in view of the reliance placed upon efficient treatment to produce a pure water supply.

FAIRLIGHT COVE ESTATE WATER COMPANY.

This company supplies filtered and chlorinated water to 78 properties.

I am not satisfied that the filtration of this water is entirely satisfactory, particularly after heavy rain, when the water appears opalescent after treatment. The Company was approached regarding remedial measures but did not accept the advice given. The quality of the water therefore remains indifferent and the purity depends on the strict attention to chlorination by the Company's employee.

The Council has been advised of this unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous situation.

WARREN ESTATE, FAIRLIGHT.

The Council purchased this Water Undertaking during the year and requisitioned on Hastings Corporation to supply this Estate with water from their mains as a matter of urgency.

FIREHILLS ESTATE WATER COMPANY, FAIRLIGHT

This Company restricts its filtered and chlorinated water supply to its own estate comprising 102 houses. During the summer months a system of rationing is operated by supplying water to each of nine sectors in turn so that individual houses have their storage tanks filled once a day.

SAMPLING OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The following table summarises the results of sampling public supplies:

	Type	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
<i>(a) Samples taken by the Council:</i>				
Toot Rock, Pett Level	Bacteriological	7	1	8
Firehills Estate, Fairlight ..	Bacteriological	7	2	9
Fairlight Cove Estate, Fairlight	Bacteriological	11	2	13
Battle Rural District Council, Battle Supply	Bacteriological	11	—	11
	Chemical and Bacteriological	4	—	4
Battle Rural District Council, Peasmarsh Supply	Bacteriological	18	4	22
	Chemical and Bacteriological	4	—	4
Bexhill Corporation	Bacteriological	1	—	1
Hastings Corporation	Bacteriological	16	11	27
<i>(b) Reports received from Statutory Undertakings:</i>				
Heathfield and District Water Company	Bacteriological	10	—	10
	Chemical and Bacteriological	1	—	1
Fairlight Cove Estate	Bacteriological	4	—	4
Hastings Corporation	Bacteriological	24	1	25

WINCHELSEA TOWN.

The unsatisfactory bacteriological samples from the main water supplied by Hastings Corporation were fully investigated and discussed with the Water Engineer of Hastings Borough, who immediately took the necessary precautions to eliminate impurities.

The reason for this lapse was the poor state of the Winchelsea Town mains which are old and need replacement. The Hastings Corporation are arranging for renewal during the financial year 1958.

In the interim, special precautions are being taken to exclude pollution and ensure a safe supply.

PEASMARSH SUPPLY.

Four unsatisfactory samples emanated from this source and steps were taken to avoid pollution although it was felt that some failure in sampling technique may have contributed to the adverse reports.

New Schemes and Extensions

CENTRAL PARISHES (MOUNTFIELD, WHATLINGTON, SEDLESCOMBE AND EWHURST).

The Waterworks, sited at Sedlescombe, was completed in December, and subsequently a full description by Mr. R. P. Field, Surveyor to the Council, appeared in the "Municipal Journal," dated 11th April, 1958. This received very favourable comment.

Progress was recorded on the eastern branch mains which will eventually serve Sedlescombe and Ewhurst (Staplecross and Cripps Corner).

Tenders were invited for the western branch mains which will supply Mountfield and Whatlington.

NORTH-EASTERN PARISHES (BECKLEY, AND PARTS OF NORTHIAM, PEASMARSH, IDEN, PLAYDEN AND RYE FOREIGN).

This scheme was submitted to the Ministry during 1957.

BREDE AND UDIMORE—REQUISITIONED SUPPLY FROM HASTINGS CORPORATION.

With the exception of the Furnace Lane branch (commenced in November), all the mains had been completed and were in operation by October, 1957.

BRIGHTLING AND DALLINGTON.

Good progress was made and it is hoped that this scheme will be completed in 1958. The Heathfield and District Water Company is responsible for the new works.

CROWHURST.

The Swineham Lane extension received Ministerial approval.

WESTFIELD (KENT STREET AND MOAT LANE).

This main was requisitioned from Hastings Corporation and the work commenced in May, but was not complete by the end of the year.

Special Works in Connection with Existing Water Supplies

BATTLE.

The deep well pump was overhauled. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved the purchase of a submersible pump to replace the air lift pump.

PLAYDEN.

The sudden bursting of the Water Tower on 4th May necessitated immediate remedial measures to ensure the water supply to Playden, Iden and Rye Foreign.

With the co-operation of Rye Borough Council it was found possible to maintain a supply to these parishes, although Hill House Hospital and three other properties adjacent on the hilltop had to be supplied individually by lorry.

By 29th June the new Water Tower was in operation.

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLY

Parish	Properties directly connected to main				Premises supplied by meter
	1957	1956	1955	1954	1957
<i>Battle Rural District Council:</i>					
Battle	1,489	1,450	1,398	1,398	} 162
Brightling	2	2	—	—	
Mountfield	7	7	7	7	
Whatlington	23	23	20	19	
Crowhurst	188	176	178	171	} 39
Iden	71	50	2	2	} 25
Playden	83	74	62	61	
Peasmarsh	81	79	74	73	4
Rye Foreign	28	26	20	19	5
<i>Hastings Corporation:</i>					
Brede*	238	—	—	—	—
Camber	203	85	—	—	—
Guestling†	397	397	351	334	—
Icklesham‡	708	683	655	502	—
Ore	87	86	84	80	—
Westfield	314	310	299	290	—
<i>Heathfield and District Water Company:</i>					
Bodiam	128	128	127	127	—
Burwash	592	587	584	560	—
Etchingham	222	221	220	218	—
Hurst Green	260	259	258	250	—
Salehurst	545	544	511	470	—
Ticehurst	834	824	809	747	—
<i>Mid-Kent Water Company:</i>					
Northiam	461	410	402	384	16
<i>Bexhill Corporation:</i>					
Ashburnham	50	39	39	38	—
Catsfield	190	186	183	181	—
Crowhurst	6	6	6	6	—
Totals	7,207	6,652	6,289	5,881	251

*Including that part of Brede known as Broad Oak, and the parish of Udimore.

†Including the parishes of Pett, Fairlight and that part of Guestling known as Three Oaks.

‡Including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM NEW AND SUSPECT SOURCES

PARISH	WELLS		SPRINGS	
	Satisfactory	Unsat'factory	Satisfactory	Unsat'factory
Ashburnham	—	1	—	—
Battle	1	1	—	—
Beckley	1	5	—	—
Brightling	—	1	—	—
Burwash	—	1	—	—
Catsfield	7	8	—	—
Ditto (Chem.)	1	1	—	—
Dallington	—	2	—	—
Etchingham	—	2	—	—
Ewhurst	—	3	—	—
Fairlight	—	2	—	—
Guestling	—	4	—	—
Hurst Green	—	—	1	1
Iden	—	1	1	—
Northiam	—	1	—	3
Peasmarsh	—	3	—	—
Penhurst	—	1	1	—
Sedlescombe	—	3	—	—
Ditto (Chem.)	2	—	—	—
Udimore	—	1	—	—
Westfield	2	5	—	—
Ditto (Chem.)	1	—	—	—
Totals	15	46	3	4

WATER SAMPLES—COUNCIL HOUSES NOT ON MAIN WATER

Estate	Type of supply	No. of dwellings	Results of samples		Action taken
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
BECKLEY:					
Four Oaks	Delivered	8			} Permanent notices " BOIL ALL WATER "
Burnt House Cotts.	Well	4			
Yew Tree Cotts. ..	Well	4			
Coombs Cottages ..	Well	12			
BREDE:					
Woodside	2 Wells	10			} Connected to main in August, 1957
Oakhill Drive	2 Wells	13			
Gillysite	Delivered	4			
BRIGHTLING:					
Park View	Well	4	1	3	Will be connected to main in 1958
DALLINGTON:					
South Lane	Well	2	2	2	" BOIL ALL WATER "
EWHURST:					
Rose's Field	Delivered	6	2	2	Tank cleaned
Sidegates	Delivered	4	2	1	Tank cleaned
Scows Down	Delivered	2	2		
MOUNTFIELD:					
Brickyard Cotts. ..	Delivered	2	3	2	Tank cleaned
Castle Gardens	Well	2	4		
SEDLESCOMBE:					
Meadowside	Well	4			} Permanent notices " BOIL ALL WATER "
East View Terrace..	Well and delivered	32			
Blacklands	Well and delivered	10			
UDIMORE:					
Lower Cross Cotts...	Spring	12		1	Will be connected to main in 1958

WATER SUPPLIES TO SCHOOLS NOT ON MAIN WATER

School	Type of Supply	Results of samples		Action taken
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
BECKLEY	Delivered	3	2	Tank cleaned
BREDE	Delivered	—	—	
DALLINGTON	Well	—	—	School closed Easter, 1957
EWHURST	Delivered	1	—	
FAIRLIGHT	Spring	2	—	
MOUNTFIELD	(a) Well (b) Delivered	—	1	
SEDLESCOMBE ..	Delivered	2	—	Tank cleaned and new cover provided
One Private School ..	Spring	—	1	
				All water boiled before use

EWHURST SCHOOL received a weekly supply of main water free of charge with the kindly co-operation of Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

BATTLE

The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a preliminary survey incorporating the outlying areas.

CAMBER

Completed in April, 1957. 206 properties out of 244 were connected to the new sewer by the end of the year.

FAIRLIGHT

The "economy squeeze" caused Winchelsea Beach Sewerage Scheme to be left in abeyance as the choice lay between the sewerage of Fairlight and Winchelsea Beach. In this connection I had to present a detailed survey to the Ministry.

Ministerial approval to the Fairlight Scheme was received in April and the work commenced in June with most satisfactory progress.

EWHRST (STAPLECROSS)

The Council's Surveyor submitted a revised specification to the Council in December.

NORTHAM

Completed.

SALEHURST, SEWAGE WORKS IMPROVEMENTS

The proposals were approved by the Minister but no grant was made.

TICEHURST (WEST FLIMWELL)

Completed.

TICEHURST (SEWAGE WORKS)

Stormwater was found to be entering from old disused drains. Proposals for remedial works were submitted to the Ministry.

WINCHELSEA TOWN (ROOKERY LANE)

Approval was received from the Minister in January for relaying the sewer in Rookery Lane and this was completed in May.

WINCHELSEA BEACH

No further progress. There are, however, indications that the lack of sewerage in this area is increasing the load on the Cesspool Emptying Service to such an extent that the provision of a second cesspool emptier might become a matter of urgency.

This would be a retrograde and expensive step, and it is earnestly hoped that the sewerage of Winchelsea Beach will be able to go forward in the near future.

GENERAL

In September the members of the Public Health Committee decided to tour the District and see for themselves the various nuisances due to lack of sewerage.

A programme of urgent priorities was evolved, and it is assumed that this will be the basis for future schemes.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

Month	Number of loads removed		
	Private	Local Authority	Total
January	58	3	61
February	73	10	83
March	85	6	91
April	107	12	119
May	158	7	165
June	74	47	121
July	102	28	130
August	95	52	147
September	88	20	108
October	96	18	114
November	76	7	83
December	76	10	86
	1,088	220	1,308

The Council has one cesspool emptier which was just able to satisfy all requests from householders although this was in very great demand for some months.

COLLECTION AND SALVAGE OF HOUSE REFUSE

The service operated smoothly throughout the year, due in large measure to the absence of sickness among the dustmen. A fortnightly collection was maintained in all but a small scattered area of the District where the interval was 16 days in the summer and 15 days in the winter.

The Council's refuse tips are regularly sprayed against flies and treated by the Council's rat-catcher; controlled where possible.

Salvage

The results of the year's collection are summarised below:

<i>Material</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qr.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Waste paper	87	17	1	0	527	3	6
Ferrous metal	16	9	0	0	82	5	0
Non-ferrous metals	3	10	2	27	347	4	1
Rags	7	4	3	0	180	18	9
	115	1	2	27	£1,137	11	4

Receipts from wastepaper fell by £473 13s. 9d. owing to the market being overloaded. A proportion of the waste paper collected had to be burned when, for several months, there was no sale for it,

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Public conveniences with wash-basins are provided by the Council at:

The Abbey Green, Battle,
Camber, East,
Camber, West,
Pett Level,
Winchelsea Beach.

By arrangement with the brewers, the Council contribute to the cost of the public convenience at the New Inn, Winchelsea Town.

HOUSING

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	275
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	1,305
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932	70
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	180
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	169

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	174
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority	Nil

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	2
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

(i) Number of Representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	24
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of undertakings accepted from owners	25
(v) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners which have since been made fit	3

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:* .. Nil

(E) *Proceedings under Section 5 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.*

Demolition Orders rescinded following reconstruction .. Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Properties investigated in 1957 for Improvement Grants..	..	100
Applications for Grant received	..	46
Applications withdrawn	..	4
Application refused (property did not conform to standards laid down)	..	1
Properties approved for Grants	..	41

Analysis of the 41 properties where grants were made reveals that:

All were for improvements and none related to conversions.

Owner/occupier	17
Dwellings for agricultural workers	18
Occupied by statutory tenants, or vacant and intended for letting	6
Total amount of grants made in 1957	£9,989 4d. 7d.
Average grant per dwelling	£243 12s. 9d.
Number of applications approved and completed in 1957 ..	30
No. of applications approved in previous years and completed in 1957	68

Improvement grants are given to house owners in order that they may add the essential amenities of safe water, bathrooms, inside water closets, hot-water systems, improved lighting, ventilation and to eradicate gross dampness in their properties.

Before an owner can qualify for a grant he must agree to remedy all disrepair at the same time, at his own expense and to the local authority's satisfaction. Many otherwise unfit houses are thus rehabilitated and given a new lease of useful and pleasant living.

The assessments of the improved properties are increased, so giving an equitable return to the local authority. Many cottages are let to tenants who would otherwise be in the queue for the subsidised council houses. This is a measure of ultimate benefit to all concerned.

THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 THE RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received under the 1954 Act.

After the coming into force of the Rent Act, 1957, on 6th July, 1957, sixteen applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. Notices of proposal to issue Certificates of Disrepair were served on the respective landlords in all cases. Undertakings to remedy the defects were received in respect of five properties and eleven Certificates of Disrepair were issued,

HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1939	..	..	..	..	..	433
1946	..	..	..	..	..	437
1947	..	..	..	..	..	540
1957	..	..	..	..	..	1,326

1,218 houses have main water supplies and 108 have other supplies as detailed on page 35. Sixty houses are without water closets.

108 families were rehoused during 1957 (actual number of persons 352), at the end of the year 358 applicants were on the Register.

The excellent liaison between the Public Health and the Housing Committees has been maintained, thus early and sympathetic consideration is given to those most in need.

Basic Council House Improvements during 1957

Number of houses connected to main water	..	..	..	27
Number of houses provided with water closets	..	..	..	14

It is satisfactory to note that as sewerage schemes and main water supplies become available, the Council's houses in the area are given these necessary amenities.

Rents and Arrears

The integrity and stability of the present-day Council house tenant is exemplified by the following table:

<i>Year ending</i>				<i>Total rent with rates collectible</i>			<i>Percentage of arrears</i>
				£	s.	d.	
31st March, 1951	..	..	..	43,238	8	1	.29
31st March, 1952	..	..	..	52,393	12	10	.105
31st March, 1953	..	..	..	58,755	2	5	.004
31st March, 1954	..	..	..	66,918	9	10	.02
31st March, 1955	..	..	..	70,307	7	6	.05
31st March, 1956	..	..	..	76,274	2	9	.06
31st March, 1957	..	..	..	96,711	7	11	.058
31st March, 1958	..	..	..	109,480	7	0	.03

Rent Rebate Scheme

In order to alleviate cases of hardship, the Council operate a Rent Rebate Scheme which resulted in a collective rebate of approximately £4,375 as against £5,000 in 1956.

NEW DWELLINGS

New Dwellings Erected during 1957:

(a) By the Council:

Battle (Astern Fields)	..	..	26 houses
Northiam (Cavix Field)	..	..	26 houses

(b) By private enterprise 61 houses

Conversions to dwelling-houses resulting in 7 new units.

Dwellings in Course of Erection, 31st December, 1957:

(a) By the Council Nil

(b) By private enterprise 38 houses

**COMPARATIVE TABLE—PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

				PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		LOCAL AUTHORITY NEW DWELLINGS
				New dwellings	Conversions	
1949	..	..	..	54	7	48
1950	..	..	..	37	9	85
1951	..	..	..	25	13	64
1952	..	..	..	37	13	98
1953	..	..	..	86	6	90
1954	..	..	..	90	14	48
1955	..	..	..	76	8	73
1956	..	..	..	64	23	72
1957	..	..	..	61	7	52

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravans are recorded on entry and kept under observation throughout their stay.

Rigorous enforcement of the Public Health Act is necessary to preserve the health of the people who have been attracted to this delightful coast.

<i>Caravan Sites</i>	<i>Number licensed</i>
Rye Bay Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach	205
Winchelsea Sands Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach	150
Lordine Court Caravan Park, Ewhurst	40
Coghurst Hall Caravan Park, Guestling	100
Beauport Caravan Park, Westfield	100
Sussex Caravans Ltd., Crowhurst Park, Battle ..	250
Cock Inn Caravan Park, Peasmarsh	20
Camber Caravan Park, Camber	100

VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1957

Subject:

Drainage and sewage disposal	..	..	..	..	..	2,266
Water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	433
Milk and dairies	..	..	..	..	..	50
Building inspections	..	..	..	..	..	1,629
Hop-pickers' dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	41
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	120
Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	133
Housing and Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	729
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	518
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	16
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	223
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	12
Factories and workshops	..	..	..	..	..	3
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	13
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	582
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	107
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	238
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	79
Rent Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	58

Total .. 7,250

INDUSTRIES

The numbers engaged in the main industries located in the District are given in the table below.

	At 31st December, 1957			At 31st December 1956
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Bakery	29	16	45	45
Beach works	47	—	47	50
Building works	465	14	479	429
Bus and Coach Operators	20	5	25	—
Cattle market	10	3	13	14
Concrete works	78	5	83	76
Egg packing station	18	22	40	39
Engineering works	232	28	260	260
Fencing contractors	19	1	20	25
Flour mills	54	19	73	70
Gypsum mines	567	16	583	600
Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's)	115	6	121	127
Jam factory	19	32	51	59
Joinery works	19	1	20	26
Laundries	15	52	67	65
Oil refining	6	—	6	4
Printing works	4	—	4	3
Public works contractors	4	—	4	8
Sawmills	72	2	74	69
Sports goods manufacturers	31	11	42	39
Sports ground contractors	31	3	34	26
Wooden toy manufacturers	14	16	30	33

Apart from the building trade labour the employment figures in the various industries are similar to 1956.

Agricultural Workers

It is not possible to give the number of agricultural workers in Battle Rural District as a separate entity. In the area covered by Hastings County Borough, the Boroughs of Rye and Bexhill and Battle Rural District (excluding Burwash and Ticehurst) there were in June, 1957, 2,160 men and 493 women (total 2,653) engaged in agricultural work.

This gives some indication of the strength of the agricultural force in this area.

Hop-pickers' Camps

The health of the pickers was good and they appeared to benefit from the amenities provided for them.

The trend of using machines rather than resident pickers continues. Local pickers are utilised whenever possible, either solely or to supplement machines.

The medical service provided by Messrs. Guinness' Hop Farms Ltd., includes a resident doctor, nurses, a small sick bay and an ambulance. This is a well integrated medical unit which is much appreciated by the 2,364 adult and 977 child pickers.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Three inspections under the Factories Act, 1937, were made during 1957.

There are no outworkers under Section 110 (1) (c).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one rat-catcher, trained to use modern methods, and this man's work has proved most effective. Routine visits are made to slaughterhouses and any Council properties, such as sewage works, which are liable to infestation.

Permanent baiting points are maintained at the principal refuse tips, and the public sewers are treated annually in accordance with the routine approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following table summarises the results of the operator's work during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1958:

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Total
	Local Authority	Dwell- ing houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including business and industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	26	10,618	Approx. 1,101	1,430	13,175
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of (a) notification (b) Survey under the Act (c) otherwise	(a) 10	170	5	30	215
	(b) 16	412	86	74	588
	(c) —	—	—	133	133
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 5	9	3	3	20
	Minor 13	160	2	17	192
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	Major —	4	—	3	7
	Minor 1	33	1	9	44
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	19	206	2	32	259

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One application received in respect of the sale of birds and fish.
One licence granted.

METEOROLOGY

Rainfall Figures taken at Battle Water Works

	1957	1956
Number of days on which rain fell	160	151
Longest period of drought ..	16 days	17 days
Periods of drought ..	9th-24th April (inclusive) and 30th Sept.-15th Oct. (inclusive)	7th-23rd February (inclusive)

Comparison with previous years is given in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	..	..	..	..	<i>Total rainfall</i>
1947	..	..	..	..	28.1 inches
1948	..	..	..	..	28.5 inches
1949	..	..	..	..	27.3 inches
1950	..	..	..	..	32.1 inches
1951	..	..	..	..	45.0 inches
1952	..	..	..	..	35.1 inches
1953	..	..	..	..	26.1 inches
1954	..	..	..	..	37.0 inches
1955	..	..	..	..	32.7 inches
1956	..	..	..	..	30.0 inches
1957	..	..	..	..	32.5 inches

Temperature

Highest recorded temperature for 1957 ..	95° on 1st July.
Lowest recorded temperature for 1957 ..	18° on 17th February.